
COUNTY OF KERN
MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

James A. Waterman, PhD, Director



*Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence*

**PAROLEE SERVICES NETWORK
REGIONAL MEETING
Kern County Mental Health
3300 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield
April 13, 2011**

PRESENT:

Felicia Skaggs – KCMH Gate Team
Audrey Presley – KCMH Gate Team
Sharon Price – Aegis Institute
Cindy Coe – KCMH SA Admin

Marilee Moon Vanni – ADP
Rashid Frye – WestCare
Lily Alvarez – KCMH SA Admin

SUMMARY MINUTES:

- 1. Introductions:** Accomplished.
- 2. Approval of January 12, 2010 meeting minutes:** Motions by Skaggs / Frye to approve as submitted; approved all ayes.
- 3. Follow-up items:**
 - A. Page 2, item 4B: Referrals to East Kern – Ms. Alvarez questioned the status of the referrals; Ms. Skaggs responded her most recent report indicated Mojave has 4 or 5, Taft has one, Ridgecrest has one, and Lake Isabella has one or two. Ms. Presley reported she had sent one referral to Ridgecrest and one to Mojave this week.
 - B. Page 2, item 4D: PSN pipeline – Ms. Alvarez confirmed a pipeline report was created, and Ms. Skaggs will bring it to the next meeting. Ms. Skaggs reported the average is 7-10 no shows for treatment and they are screening about 45-50 a month. The data will be separated to include only intake appointments, and not treatment modifications or revisits. Ms. Alvarez explained the pipeline was created for other programs to track how many people were referred, screened, and then showed for treatment. Ms. Presley indicated there have been some problems with no shows lately, possibly due to parole agents being lenient in giving more chances.
 - C. Page 2, item 4F: Revision to Work Plan – Ms. Alvarez reported there are two beds available at WestCare, and will send notification to ADP. Ms. Moon Vanni indicated an e-mail could be sent to her and she will forward to the appropriate person.



- D. Page 4, item 9D: Distribution of parole unit list – Ms. Alvarez questioned whether the list had been sent electronically to the PSN providers. As some providers were not certain of receipt, the list will be re-sent.
 - E. Ms. Presley announced Parole discontinued the PAC meetings two weeks ago.
4. **PSN Administrators meeting debrief:** Ms. Skaggs attended the January meeting, and reported discussion centered on changes to the cost reports and claims for reimbursement. CDCR will receive monthly reports and ADP quarterly reports based on the monthly reports. Ms. Skaggs reminded providers it is important they send their data before the 5th of every month.

Ms. Alvarez expressed concerns regarding the claims for reimbursement compared to the cost report at the end of the year, and the disconnect between the two. The claim for reimbursement is based on the claims that Mental Health pays to the providers for the particular month in which they are asking for reimbursement. The providers use cost allocation methodologies to the best of their ability, given their funding silos; Ms. Alvarez provided a scenario on how an employee's time may be split based on their client population or service provided. The monthly payments made to providers are considered interim payments. It is not until the end of the year that the cost report and all of the information about all of the costs and all of the services, and how the costs are allocated by the services. What will happen, depending on all of the data that is in the data base, is a reconciliation based on how many groups and individual sessions were done and for what client funding. The cost may not always look the same as the interim payments that have been made that are the basis of the claims for reimbursement. The new claim for reimbursement makes an assumption that things are static.

Ms. Moon Vanni responded other counties are reporting on actual invoices they receive. If they report something that is 1/12th for the first couple of months ADP can see that; by the second quarter it should be known what was spent in the first three months of the year. Ms. Alvarez disagreed, because the unit cost is based on how many groups, who is in the groups, and what the funding mix is in the group. Ms. Moon Vanni responded, you should know what was done six months ago. Ms. Alvarez explained that it is not known until you have counted all of the services. Ms. Moon Vanni reported she receives reports from other counties on how much they spent. Ms. Alvarez responded knowing how much the interim services are is not the problem; it is when the Department settles to cost at the end of the year. What ADP will see is skewed on a monthly basis; it is not a linear process, but a very dynamic process in that each group has a different size and a different mix of individual funding. The ratios to those groups are not always the same and the providers cannot do a cost report on a monthly basis. Ms. Moon Vanni responded that we have to finish what we are doing for this fiscal year; the reporting for next year will change completely to be based on actual service reimbursement. It has been a struggle for ADP and for providers. Ms. Alvarez asked that Ms. Moon Vanni take the message back to ADP that the claim for payment and the quarterly claim for reimbursement may not necessarily be what ends up in the cost report, and the problem is making decisions

based on partial information and the reallocation of funds. If you look at the cost report, 100% of the PSN funding has been used. If you look at the monthly reports it does not necessarily look like we are going to spend the whole allocation. Ms. Alvarez would not want ADP to base a decision on the monthly reports but on the cost report. Ms. Moon Vanni responded the cost report would be going away so the mindset of what a cost report will have to change for the next term. ADP is not just looking at what happened in the last year because they will not have all of the information for the cost reports, but rather looking at cost reports for 2007-08 and 2008-09, which have been settled. ADP has to report to the legislature how the money is being spent based on who is being served, and how effective the services are. The reports are necessary to get the most accurate information, and counties may have to “guesstimate” when sending the reports; within six months of actually reporting the first and second month of a fiscal year counties should have a pretty good idea of what has been spent. If the third quarter report needs to include a readjustment of spending, staff hours, or admissions, that is acceptable. Ms. Alvarez indicated providers should understand, based on the new claim for reimbursement, Mental Health will use Anasazi as the basis for counting individual and group services so data needs to be entered in a timely manner.

5. State ADP Issues: Marilee Moon Vanni

- A. Some adjustments have been made based on the Administrator’s Meetings, which can be found in the minutes distributed.
- B. The Work Plan for next fiscal year are going through an IA review with CDCR, and it is hoped it will be done soon. The new plan should be simpler to complete. A work plan meeting will be planned for June. Training will be provided on the new invoicing system and data information system.
- C. At the Mojave site visit today, staff voiced a concern there are no consequences for not coming and there is no support from the parole agent; the concern also included lack of follow up with positive drug testing. Ms. Alvarez agreed this area has been a constant issue with Parole. Trying to deal with drug testing, which is not an allowable PSN cost, Parole made testing kits available for outlying areas; in outlying areas they recognized the “random” testing was done on the same day every month. For many years there were no referrals in the East Kern area from agents. Ms. Presley added there have been agents retiring and they have been shuffling parolees from one agent to another; right now the outlying agents are staying on top of things and has been smoother. Ms. Alvarez recalled that the CDCR union sees testing as a workload issue for the agents, and it is beyond the scope of their union contract to do multiple testing. Ms. Alvarez would encourage ADP to advocate to CDCR to make the cost of drug testing an allowable cost. Ms. Moon Vanni take the suggestion back to ADP.
- D. Ms. Moon Vanni reported she toured the Casa Aurora program, the Female Rehabilitative Community Correctional Center. It is a program through CDCR in

conjunction with the Mental Health Services System, a gender-response program for females; a prison within a prison. They have 65 women. Currently Bakersfield does not have a residential program for female offenders, and FRCCC was questioning whether there would be done soon because they have women in the community who have to leave the Casa Aurora facility and go to Fresno for a program. Ms. Alvarez responded Kern contracted for PSN women's beds at the beginning of the year but there were no referrals, and the contract had to be amended. Ms. Moon Vanni suggested perhaps Mental Health could partner with FRCCC. Ms. Alvarez responded Kern County uses a three-year competitive bid cycle and could not contract with FRCCC. If there were a referral they would need to go through the Gate Team for placement.

Ms. Skaggs questioned how long the women were in the program; Ms. Moon Vanni responded it varies. Ms. Skaggs explained that, depending on how long they had been there and how much clean time they have, the women may not qualify for a residential program, but rather a Level 3 or 4.

Ms. Alvarez thought the CDCR regions had specific providers assigned, and thought WestCare was the SASCA. Ms. Moon Vanni explained the FRCCC has nothing to do with treatment and is actually a correctional prison, everything is provided inside. Ms. Alvarez believed Mental Health Systems had the southern region but did not know they were in Kern County's region. Mr. Frye added prior operators also housed females. Ms. Alvarez felt it was interesting FRCCC did not go through competitive bid to be a provider for Mental Health, which may speak to the ranking and quality of services. CDCR uses a process to select providers in communities, without going through county alcohol and drug program administrators or seek information about a particular provider. This speaks to the bifurcated alcohol and drug system.

Members discussed the women's residential facilities available in Kern County. Ms. Moon Vanni asked for a list of names of facilities/agencies available.

- E. Ms. Presley suggested Ms. Moon Vanni contact the parole administrator regarding the discontinuation of the PAC meetings.

6. State CDCR Issues: Not present.

7. Kern County Parole Issues: Not present.

8. Provider Issues:

- A. Ms. Price and Mr. Frye thanked Ms. Skaggs for sending prompts and helping keep things on track.

- B. Ms. Presley reminded providers she needs the referral outcomes sent on time, in order for her to complete required reports. The treatment modifications also need to be completed in a timely manner. Mr. Frye questioned how soon a treatment modification should be requested when coming out of residential; Ms. Presley responded up to two weeks but no less than seven days. Ms. Alvarez confirmed, by the fourth week in treatment clinicians should be preparing the client to move to the next level, so two weeks to ten days before discharge are needed. Members also discussed the importance of also including information about whether they will be moving to an outlying area.
- C. Ms. Skaggs reminded providers, if they reschedule a client, the referral outcome needs to include the rescheduled date and time. If the client did not show providers should check the appropriate button and include who the client is being referred back to, such as agent of record, probation officer, or who needs to be notified.

9. Mental Health Issues: Lily Alvarez

- A. PSN funding is not included in the \$184 million Realignment. Ms. Moon Vanni confirmed the only thing listed right now is SB 69, which is part of a reduction. Ms. Alvarez indicated the Department is moving forward with contracts as though the funding were there.
- B. Ms. Alvarez sought confirmation the PSN Work Plan would not be released until after the Budget Act. Ms. Moon Vanni reported ADP's goal is to get the Work Plan to counties in June, along with the invoicing. ADP has not made a determination whether counties can move forward using the funds before. The plan will be in place and ready to go. It will be up to counties to decide if they want to continue services and backfill until the funds have been released. Ms. Alvarez indicated she assumed Drug Medi-Cal, in a worse-case scenario, were to be eliminated the Budget Act would allow 90 days to ramp down. If PSN was eliminated would there be the same kind of ramp down timeline? Ms. Moon Vanni felt ADP would provide a ramp down period and time would be allowed to complete the program. Ms. Alvarez related a situation in the past in which the Budget Act went retro to July 1st and providers were stuck not getting paid for services provided. Ms. Moon Vanni offered to find out if ADP will go retroactively to July 1st or if a ramp down period would be provided.
- C. It will be critical for providers to make sure data and services are in Anasazi and to submit their claims for reimbursement as quickly as possible.
- D. Ms. Alvarez reported she is very pleased with the responsiveness of providers when asked to follow up, and thankful CDCR has allowed staff to be on site and receptive to addressing issues. Providers continue to use evidence-based

programs such as the Matrix Model and Seeking Safety, which are relevant interventions for these populations.

- E. Ms. Alvarez repeated that if Mental Health Systems needs female residential beds to contact the Gate Team. Mr. Frye questioned what was the ratio of inmates at the FRCCC who were Kern County residents; Ms. Moon Vanni did not know specifics on the population. Mr. Frye indicated that it would probably not be cost effective for a provider to try to allocate beds to FRCCC because there would be very few referrals.
- F. During this week Ms. Moon Vanni will be visiting the College Community Services sites at Mojave, Ridgecrest and Lake Isabella, and Turning Point.

10. Next meeting **July 13, 2011**, at Kern County Mental Health Administration.

LA:cc

Attachments to original minutes:

January PSN Administrators Meeting Minutes – *Mental Health*